

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 10, 2010

Present: Ames, Coughlin, Roberts, Smith, Milius, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff), Diane Mitchell (guest)

The meeting was called to order by acting chair, Dennis Roberts, at 7:36 p.m.

The minutes of the May 6, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Walton distributed the executive summary of the Connecticut State-wide Solid Waste Composition & Characterization Study. Walton also reported that Connecticut's electronics waste regulations have been approved by the State's Regulations Review Committee. The Connecticut electronics recycling law is likely to go into effect in October.

Hultgren presented proposed trash policy changes for single-family homes as part of a Town-wide effort to reduce blighted properties. Committee members agreed with staff's recommendations for the following proposed changes to the Town's solid waste collection program. All household trash and recyclables should be collected, even if the trash is over the service level, not recycled or recyclables are poorly sorted, but the Town should have the authority to increase the service level for a "non-conforming" household. For each quarter that a household is not adhering to the recycling and service level policies, the service level would increase to the next higher service level. Households that have 2 or more occurrences in a month or 3 in a quarter would be considered "non-conforming." A new service level would be created for "non-conforming" maxi service. The service level could be restored upon request after 1 quarter of conformity. Conformity and non-conformity would be verified by staff. Walton estimated that there are between 50 to 100 non-conforming households. This number will be confirmed. *(Note: 73 single-family households have had repeated issues with poor recycling or inability to stay within the service level).* Unlimited spring trash week should be moved to the week after UConn's commencement. The committee suggested adding a fall unlimited trash week to address the extra trash during student move-ins. Mitchell stated that during unlimited trash weeks, an extra 1 to 2 tons of trash is collected. The trash collector picks up 6 to 7.5 tons per truck on a typical day. Milius expressed an interest in surveying rental houses. A draft of the ordinance changes will be brought to Town Council this summer. Hultgren mentioned that two items that were tabled because of the economy will be brought to the Town Council in the fall - increasing the can size from 35 gallons to 45 gallons and eliminating bag equivalents for the can services.

Hultgren stated that staff is discussing litter control strategies for the Hunting Lodge and North Eagleville corridor that includes placing trash cans along the Hunting Lodge Road walkway and hiring student to pick up litter one or two times per week.

Walton reported that this spring's UConn Give and Go collection diverted 7 tons of usable items to 20 different charities, a 63% increase from last year's first collection.

The July 1, 2010 meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk